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PATAGONIA.

The Native Despises Clothes and Is In. She Spent as Little as Possible and Acdifferent to Ornament.

A traveler newly returned from the Pacific Ocean tells pleasant stories of the Patagonians. As the steamer he was in was passing through Magellan's Straits some natives came out to her in boats. They were no clothes at all, though there was snow in the air. A baby that came along with them made some demonstration that displeased its mother, who took it by the foot, as Thetis took Achilles and soused it over the side of the boat into the cold sea-water. When she pulled it in, it lay a moment whimpering in the bottom of the boat, and then curled up and went to sleep. The missionaries there have tried to teach the natives to wear clothes, and to sleep in huts; but, so far, the traveler says, with very limited success. The most shelter a Patagonian can endure is a little heap of rocks, or a log to the windward of him: as for clothes, he despises them, and he is indifferent to ornaments.

To many of us. groaning under the oppression of modern conveniences, it seems lamentably meddlesome to undermine the simplicity of such people. that disease, but used several bottles and enervate them with the luxuries of civilization. To be able to sleep out-of-doors, and go naked, and take sea-baths on wintry days with impunity, would seem a most alluring emancipation. No rent to pay, no tailor, no plumber, no newspaper to be read on pain of getting behind the times; no regularity in anything, not even meals; nothing to do except to find food, and no expense for undertakers or physicians, even if we fail; what a fine, untrammelled life it would be! It takes occasional contact with such people as the Patagonians to keep us in mind that civilization is the mere cultivation of our wants, and that the higher it is the more our necessities Hayward's Sheep Dips. are multiplied, until, if we are rich enough, we get enervated by luxury, and the young men come in and carry us out. - American Cultivator.

WITH A MORAL.

The Stary of the Man Who Told the Cost

of Everything. Here is a story which may contain a hint to any woman who finds herself forgetting that the most perfect hospitality is such as conceals its weight. The story is told of a certain New Yorker whose splendid country seat has not always housed himself and family and whose plethoric bank account is of comparatively recent date.

There was, not so very long ago, as a guest at this house, a man whose usual courtesy was greatly taxed by the ostentation of his host. Did he admire the view of a distant river, he was told what it cost to cut the vista through; when the stables were visited an estimate was given of the expense of building and stocking them; a fine paint ng was commented upon only to have its value in dol ars and cents proclaimed, and so on in the most trying

At length dinner was announced, and beyond giving the amount of the the government ste mer which is wages he paid his French cook the stationed at the pearl banks. A gov- and the spray is carried as high as the host was fairly quiet. At dessert, how- ernment recorder is attached to each foretop, his confidence in his ship is ever, whose fruit included some hotpeaches, he pressed a second are guarded by armed police. house upon his guest, who took it with the locality of the fishery presents a busy remark that such luscious peaches at this season were a tempting delicacy.

"Yes," said the host, "they are, and an expensive delicacy, too. I estimate that these peaches cost me about thirtyfive cents apiece right here in my own hothouse.'

Whereupon the guest, taxed beyond his endurance, reached over and took a third peach from the dish, produced a dollar bill from his pocket, and, saying calmly. 'I suppose you are willing to say three for a dollar," laid it down and left the table.—New York Times.

THE CITY OF DEATH.

tanding Upon a Sw mp, the Capital's Den h Rate is 37 in 1,900.

The death rate of the City of Mexico is very high. It is said that it averages about 37 in 1,000, and the only wonder is that it is not higher. ere it not for the perpetually bright sun and the high altitude the city would be a norgue, a vast charnelhouse, a Golgotha, a place of skulls. Think of a city which has had a population of hundreds of thousands for many generations built upon and over a swamp, with no drainage whatever, and let this city go on with its accumulated mass of filth increasing year by year and sinking down into the soil, and you have some idea of sanitary Mexico City.

A constant miasma rises here at night and the water is only three feet under the city. Is it any wonder that there is no place in the world where typhus and typhoid fever is so prevalent as here, and is it not surprising that the Mexican capital is for many peo le a favorab e health resort? The climate is so equable, the thin, dry air and the hot sun suck up the juices of decomposition, and such people as are careful and sleep above the ground floor are in little danger. Outside the city there is no danger whatever, and if it had been built on high ground it would be the finest health resort of the world. As it is, foreigners have to be very careful of their health here, and the foreign cemeteries contain many occupants.-St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Brave New York Girl.

A New York girl has set a worthy example to all women. She was to be married and was ready to go the altar when her intended husband came to her intoxicated. She loved the man but refused to risk her happiness with one who would go to his wedding in such a condition. She pointed to the door and commanded him never to again enter her home. It not only reder oil, every time that it is u ed. It quired courage but a great deal of common sense to do that, but it was the proper thing for the occasion.

PRUDENCE IN MOURNING.

complished Her Purpose. The economy which is too strong to be disturbed by grief or bereavment is so akin to avarice that no one feels any self-reproach for holding it up to ridicule, although the circumstances may have to do with the saddest of events. There was once an eccentric old lady who lived in one of the seaport towns of New England, and who was renowned alike for her oddities and for what her neighbors called her "nearness." She was a widow, and had inherited not a little property from her husband, which she carefully handled and which increased in her care. It was made a matter of reproach that she did not erect a tombstone to her husband, but she always said that she could not afford such an

In course of time, however, the widow made up her mind to have a tablet, and accordingly went to Boston to select it. She visited one marble yard after another, but for a long time could find nothing cheap enough to suit her. At last she came upon a large and handsome slab which was set aside to be cut down.

"You see it was spoiled." the stonecutter explained. .. We began it for a man named Mark, but the wife changed her mind by the time we had got so much of the name on, and there is the whole slab spoiled."

"I'll take it off your hands," the widow said promptly. "if you'll let me have it reasonably.

·Oh. I'll let you have it very cheap, to save the bother of having it cut over. But what can you do with it?" "I'll use it," she answered, and at once proceeded to go into the discus-

sion of the price. When she had at last beaten the stone-cutter down to an absurdly low figure, the widow bought the slab.

"There," she said, 'now what I want you to do is to put the perfect lows: man' after that word in the same sort of letters, and then the name and the date can go just there.'

She indicated to the astonished stone-cutter with her long finger the disposition of the inscription, and thus it came about that in a certain wellknown cemetery of her native city her husband sleeps under a marble whereupon the world is admonished to "Mar's the perfect man!"-Youth's Companion.

PEARL FISHING.

How it is Done in Ceylen-the Diver and

His Ontlit. The pearl fishery is again being conducted off the Northwest coast of Coylon, and this year a larger number of buyers from India and the continent generally has been attracted to the banks than ever be ore. The diver's great toe is inserted in a loop formed by the rope which is wound round the diving stone. The water is c lm and quite clear to a considerable depth at this season of the year. The fleet of oyster boats is under the control of boat, and the oyster stores on shore The scene, with its throng of buyers, petty tradesmen, officials, boatmen, etc., who congregate there during the two or three weeks of the fishery. After a few days the oyster shells attract clouds of flies, from which there is no escape, not even at meal times when every precaution is taken to prevent a fly or two being inadvertently swallowed with every mouth ul of food. The first boat which arrives at Colombo or at any other town on the coast from the fishery with a cargo of pearl oysters is enthusiastically welcomed by old and young, rich and poor alike, for all of them are bent on trying their luck in an oyster or two purchased at random from the fish-

mongers. -- New York Recorder.

Never Too Late to Learn. History amply proves the truth of this trite saying. You can probably all call to mind from your readings instane's of men and women, gray with years, who took up some special line of study and mastered it. Yet we are continually hearing people, while still in their twenties, say with a choking sigh of regret that they are so sorry they didn't learn this or that when they were young; but that it is too late now, they are too old to learn. ilosh! If they would tell the truth they woul say that they are too lazy to make the effort. When you hear anyone talk that way just mention the following facts to him:

Socrates, at an extreme old age, learned to play on musical instruments. Cato, at 80 years of age, learned to speak the Greek language.

Plutarch, when between 70 and 80, commenced the study of Latin. Boccaccio was 35 years of age when he began his studies in light literature. yet he became one of the greatest mas-

ters of the Tuscan dialect. Doctor Johnson applied himself to the sady of the Dutch language but a tew years before his death.

An Odd Number.

A very curious number is 142,857. which, multiplied by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, gives the same figures in the same or der, beginning at a different point, but it multiplied by seven gives all nines. Multiplied by one it equals 142,857, multiplied by two equals 285,714, multiplied by three equals 428,571, multiplied by four equals 571, 428, multiplied by five equals 714, 285, multiplied by six equals 857, 142, multiplied by seven equals 999,999. Multiply 142,857 by eight and you have 1,142,856. Then add the first figure to the last and you have 142,857, the original aumber, the figures exactly the same as at the

WRITTEN BY HISTORIC HANDS. Letters by Washington, Lafayette and

Benedict Arnold. Three original letters, one by Washington, one by Lafayette, and one by Benedict Arnold are attracting much attention here in a down-town show window, says a Washington, Penn.,

correspondent to the Phila. Press. They are the property of Thomas Morgan, who secured them from General Morgan, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The writing of Washington and Arnold is very plain, while that of Lafayette is very difficult to decipher.

Washington's letter is to Colonel George Morgan at Princeton. It says: Mr.—: I received your favor of the 9th inst. by Captain Dodge. It will be convenient for me to see the Delaware chiefs and those who attend them at headquarters to-morrow evening at 5 o'clock. The whole or part may come as will be most agreeable to them and you will be

pleased to accompany them. "I am, your most obedient servant,

"G. WASHINGTON." The Arnold letter reads as follows: (Benedict Arnold to the Continental Board of

"A captain and fifty men should be left at Kiskaskiss, on the Mississippi, 110 miles above the Ohio, to secure the pass. As it is very probable that there may be a British frigate, or one or two armed sloops at Pensacola, I think it will be necessary intelligence, for which purpose an officer should be immediately dispatched to New Orleans to treat with the governor, who I am informed, is inclined to favor the ex-pedition. Colonel Morgan, who is well quainted with the difficulties and route attending the expedition, is the best judge of the time it will necessarily take also the quantity of provisions and the best method of procuring it, as well as the boats. I have not entered into the min-utes of the affair, as I conceive Colonel Morgan, from his intimate acquaintance with the country, &c., more capable of

"I am, sir, your obedient humble servant. "B. ARNOLD." The letter from Lafayette is as fol-

(Lafayette to Col. Morgan.) "Panis, February the 10. 'The enclosed, my dear General, is a vocabulary which the Empress of Russia has requested me to have filled up with Indian names, as she has ordered an universal dictionary to be made of all languages, it would greatly oblige her to col-lect the words she sends, translated into the several idioms of the nations on the banks of the Oglo. Poesley Nevile at Mor-gan's at Fort Pitt, Mutleberg of Fayette

unty, and one other friend could undertake it for us. and be very attentive to accuracy. I beg your pardon, my dear general, for the trouble I give you but have been so particularly applied to that I can not dispose without paying great at-tention to the business. This goes with so long an epistle of mine that I thank you. Herewith my best love and wishes

and am. my dear general, "Your respectful and tender friend, "LAPAYETTE."

THE MODERN SHIP.

Fog Is a Source of Great Pamage Not to Be Overcom . It is not when the seas come pounding over the bows that the captain's face lengthens. Even when it is necessary to keep the passengers below, unabated. His spirits do not fall with the barometer, and though the clouds hang low, and the air is filled with stinging moisture flying like sleet from the hissing sea-even when boats are torn out of the davits, and iron bits of ventilators are snapped from their fastenings like pipe stems, he has no misgiving as to the ability of the ship to weather the gale, or the fiercest

hurricane that can blow. Give him an open sea, without haze, or fog. or snow, and neither wind nor wave can alarm him. He knows very well, as all who are experienced in such matters do, that the modern steamers of the great Atlantic lines are so carefully constructed, and of such strength, that the foundering of one of them through stress of weather alone is well nigh inconce vable.

But when a fog descends, then it is that his face and manner change, a d he who has been the most sociable and gayest of men suddenly becomes the most anxious and taciturn. His seat at the head of the table is vacant; look for him an I you will not find him, as in fair weather, diverting groups of girls tucked up in steamer chairs on the promenade-deck, but pacing the bridge and pulling a cigar which apparently has not been allowed to go out since it was lighted as the big ship backed from her wharf into the North

Wherever and whenever it occurs, fog is a source of danger from which neither prudence nor skill can guarantee immunity; and whether the ship is slowed down or going at full speed, there is cause for fear while this grey blindness baffles the eyes. With plenty of sea-room the danger is least, and it increases near land, especially where the coast is wild and broken like that of Ireland and Wales, and where there are many vessels as well as rocks to be passed.—Scribner's.

Fireproofing.

Still another process for fireproofing combustible materials is reported from Russia, the medium being de-cribed as a pa te, which is said to have been tested recently with most satisfactory results by the Moscow Imperial Society. A shanty was built entirely of straw, and, after being covered with the paste, was subjected to a hot fire, the only effect being to change the straw from a yellow to a reddish brown color, without igniting or even cracking. The society re'erred to has consequently made arrangements, it is said, to introduce the use of this new invention throughout the empire, considering it from every point of view as of the highest value in villages or localities where the houses are, as a rule, thatched with straw, and where fires, once started, frequently make a clean sweep of the place. The cost of the preparation is very small.